August 14, 1964

Mr. A.M. Trogner
350 E. Brown Street
E.Stroudsburg, Penna. 18301

Dear Mr. Trogner:

Your letter of July 8, 1964 remained unanswered because I was on vacation and, when I returned, I wanted to take time out to study it carefully.

Your comments are very interesting and I am the first to say that we are not exactly sure as to how this doubling was caused. Since the Class III specimens, generally, do not have the doubling, I do not believe that the dies were recut or repunched as they were already hardened.

There are some facts that you should know in order to consider this matter further. The stars are punched in, separately, and your statement that the star punch could be attached to the eagle punch is not sound, in my opinion. The fact that both the star and the eagle have doubling indicates that it is the dies which moved rather than otherwise. Likewise, the letters in UNITED and in STATES are separately punched in and the words were not struck in logotype as logotypes were not then used, particularly curved ones. The Berg reverse die is actually so identical in all other respects to the other Class III specimens that there is no possibility that it is a new die. Naturally, there could have been recutting, but there is no evidence of recutting. It is perfectly possible for some parts of a coin to double in striking and not others because of the peculiar outward movement which took place in the metal when the old coinage presses were used. I am going to study your proposition further and if you have any new conclusions I will be glad to discuss them with you.

Thank you for your very nice remarks with respect to the book. I can assure you that there were many problems

August 14, 1964

which are unanswered and, rather than speculate, only the factors which could be verified were set out. There will be a supplement published by Whitman in their monthly journal as to new facts concerning the 1804 Dollar since the book was written but it will not relate to the thoughts you present. It will have other material which students, like yourself, should know.

It is a pleasure to hear from a fellow-enthusiast.

Sincerely yours,

ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC
EDUCATION SOCIETY

EPN/atb

Arthur M. Trogner
350 E. Brown St.
East Stroudsburg
Pa. 18301

Mr. Eric P. Newman,
Eric P. Newman Numismatic Education Society,
6450 Cecil Avenue, St. Louis, Mo. 63100

Sept. 4, 1969

Dear Mr. Newman;

You will probably recall that we exchanged letters in the later part of 1964 about my theory thatthere were actually 3 reverse dies used in the striking of the "Fantastic" 1804 dollars.

In your last letter of Dec. 11, 1964 you indicated that I would hear futher from you as soon as you could get to it but that I shouldn't stop working if the problem intrigued me. Well it did and I didn't stop.

My thinking lead me to the conclusion that there was an even better method of getting the answer than working with the actual coins themselves. Basicly it consists of getting large films of the reverses of the Class I, II and the Berg Class III dollars and superimposing 2 at a time over an underneath lighted ground glass screen. Such views should be at as large as could be taken with a 4 X 5 camera. The larger the better and all three would have to be taken at one location and under identical conditions of focus, exposure, light, etc. so that they could be properly superimposed.

Since the Class I and Class II dollars are in the Smithsonian collection and the Class III Berg dollar in the Johns-Hopkins collection in Baltimore it seemed logical to see if this work could be done at Washington. Dr.Cain-Stefanelli readily agreed to do the work but left it up to me to get the consent of the University at Baltimore to send the Berg dollar over to Washington for just long enough to make the shots.

There is where I struck a road block. Miss Freeman, wo has custody of the Berg dollar, didn't even reply to my letter of Feb. 13, 1965. I phoned her a month later but got no answer out of her even then.

At that time my work load on the Borough Planning & Zoning Comm. was greatly increased by my being made chairman and by Redevelopment activities so I had to drop some of my coin interests. This work has now slacked off so I can now get back to the dollar studies.

On May 14th last, Mr. Edward Rochette, at my request,wrote to Miss Freeman in an effort to remove her road-block but seems to have run into the "same "no answer" treatment that I got.

It is not my purpose to discredit the fine work you did in uncovering the facts about these "Fantastic" dollars but rather to extend your work by this newer method.

I am therefor asking your help in getting the necessary permission from Baltimore for the transportation of the Berg dollar over to Washington for the few minuits needed to make these films. I have agreed to cover reasonable costs involved.

An early reply would be sincerely appreciated.

Sincerely,

Arthur M. Trogner

Arthur M. Trogner

ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC EDUCATION SOCIETY

6450 Cecil Avenue, St. Louis 5, Missouri

September 9, 1969

Mr. A. M. Trogner
350 E. Brown St.
E. Stroudsburg, Penna. 18301

Dear Mr. Trogner:

I was delighted to receive your letter of September 4, 1969 and am glad you are still working on the project with respect to the 1804 Dollar. Another project is under way with respect to determining, more accurately, when the dies for the 1804 Dollar might have been made and therefore I have my finger in that matter, also.

The problem to get Dr. Sarah Freeman's cooperation is one which I fully understand. First, there is the problem of the risk of loss. Second, she has been subjected to a number of inquiries in the past which were not bona fide and as a result has taken a very cautious attitude towards lending out the material over which she has custody. She might wish to obtain permission to withdraw as important a piece as this from the collection and therefore might wish to avoid that red tape.

I do not know which one of the DuPont 1804 Dollars was recovered by the Florida police, but, perhaps there is an opportunity of cooperation from the law enforcement authorities in making a highly detailed picture of it. Perhaps the Smithsonian could be helpful in obtaining such a picture since it is a governmental matter. [redacted]

You have a very difficult problem and I would like to keep it in mind so that when an opportunity arises to secure cooperation, I will be able to take advantage of it.

Sincerely yours,

ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC
EDUCATION SOCIETY

EPN/stb